Shipboard: the 19th century emigrant experience

Shipboard brings to life the experience of the long voyage to Australia undertaken by thousands of emigrants in the second half of the 19th century.

It focuses on personal and collective experiences of the journey from the United Kingdom to Australia through personal diaries, sketches, published ships’ newspapers and ephemera, drawn from the vast collections of the State Library of NSW.

[1] a3235002h.jpg
Sketches made during a voyage on the sailing ship Parramatta, 1873-1874 / by George Sydney Waterlow
1873-1874
George Sydney Waterlow
Call # PXA 3314 [2]
Digital ID: a3235002
View collection item detail [3]

About this item: Ship "Eaton Hall". Inscription on back of photo reads: [sic] "Migrants from England to Australia aboard the "Eaton Hall". One representative of each family was below decks cooking or arranging a meal, all the others and some crew are on deck" - On board ship en route to Australia

bcp_02064h.jpg [4]
P&O company steamer "Britannia" leaving Circular Quay - Sydney, NSW [Call # At Work and Play - 02025] Digital ID: bcp_02025
View collection item detail [9]
Advertisements.

LOST.—A Silver mounted Briar-root Pipe, supplied from the warehouse in the after-mid. Finder is requested to return to the Editor.

FOUND.—A large number of H's, which have recently been dropped by some of the passengers. The owner can have the same by paying the (H) expense of this (H) advertisement.

Humorous.

OYSTER SAUCE.—Two score "Natives" were brought on board at St. Vincent, some of whom were seen on deck, selling their shells.

On the morning of the 25th ult. it was discovered that the steward was short of eggs, and the ship was ordered to "lay by."

The sailors may well be reduced to bare feet when they leave their homes on the deck every night.

St. Vincent.

On the morning of June 25th, the "Garonne" dropped anchor off St. Vincent, Portuguese element, Cape de Verde Islands, latitude 21° 33' S., longitude 33° 23' W., with a mail steamer on the point of proceeding to Europe, and a Portuguese war-ship, cohors from Cape Verde, in sight of the "Garonne." The "Garonne" was soon visited by a number of boats, the clothing of whose crew reminded us strongly of the coat-tree of Democracy—a cocked hat and a pair of spurs—while others in bare arms bare skins direct hollow coins in the blue waters of the bay. Party after party of passengers were soon in their way to "terra firma," one boat loading—though in Portuguese waters and under the guidance of a Portuguese naval officer—"Britannia rules the waves."

The opinions of the people expressed by visitors on their return were almost as varied as varied by the visitors themselves. One gentleman summed up all in the words—Manners, None. Customs, Objectionable.

For our part we were furnished ample objects of interest for one brief two hours stay, and the white embossed walls, the water carriers, and the scenes at the various wells gave an oriental tone to all we saw which atoned for much otherwise not worthy of comment.

The exterior of the house was invariably clean, and did the aspect of the coloured inhabitants give ground for complaint, the Negresses in their gay dress and shawl-giving colour to a scene which through the absence of bright hues in the background required this relief.

As may have been expected the officialdom of the place seemed all asleep, the government house was closed, the barracks square empty, the sentry boxes everywhere without sentries, and even the post office shut up, though we were assured that it was open sometimes. Few could fail to be struck by the erect and dignified bearing of the coloured inhabitants, and there were few others seen in the streets.

The custom of carrying burdens upon the head, and especially vessels of water, induces an erectness of the head and general gracefulness of carriage invariably met with under similar circumstances.

Bananas and pine apples brought from the neighbouring and more fertile island of St. Antonio, were plentiful though not particularly fine.

The islands are of volcanic origin, and vegetation appears to be conspicuous by its absence, except for a few low growing trees planted round the central square, and along the road to the hospital a plain rail backed in the background and near the base of the rugged hills, against which (as seen from the sea) the white houses of the town stand out in clear relief.

In the course of the day a French steamer came into port from some of the South American States, and flying the yellow quarantine flag.

The cheers of the "Garonne" went on all night, to the delight of those of us who happened to have a steam which over our heads, or one of the shots of the coasters near our cabin.

We were probably all able enough to see the "man and the brother" vanish from our view as once more we steamed into the wide Atlantic, our thoughts now fixed on the Cape of Good Hope, as we had to likely have been upon St. Vincent for "man never is to be always to be blest."
THEATRE ROYAL,
S.S. "GARONNE."

PROGRAMME
JULY, 1879,
The performance will commence at 8.30 with

A REGULAR FIX.
Mr. Hugh de Brass ... ... Mr. F. Dutton
Mr. Surplus (A Lawyer) ... Mr. Dilworth
Charles Surplus (his Nephew) Mr. H. O. Jones
Abel Quick (Clerk to Surplus) Mr. H. Croft
Smiler (A Sheriff's Officer) Mr. E.W. Sandford
Porter ... ... ... ... ... "
Mrs. Surplus ... ... ... Mrs. Whall
Emily ... ... ... Mrs. F. S. D. Broughton
Mrs. Deborah Carter (Housekeeper to Surplus) Miss Eaton
Matilda Jane ... ... ... Miss Rogers

A HAPPY PAIR.
Mr. Honeyton ... ... ... Mr. F. Dutton
Mrs. Honeyton ... ... Mrs. F. S. D. Broughton

The Prologue is written by the Right Rev.
Bishop Selwyn.

PRICE SIX-PENCE.
The "Garonne" journal. 1879
[S.I.] : Printed on board the S.S. "Garonne" by R.W. Comley
Call # 910.42/G No.1-no.3 (1879) [11]
Digital ID: a5323005
View collection item detail [14]

a5318001h.jpg [15]
Ticket for transport of Mr Anderson and family and Thomas Robertson from Glasgow to Port Phillip, 18 October 1852

Call # MLDOC 229 [16]

Digital ID: a5318001

View collection item detail [17]

a5319001h.jpg [18]
William J. Jenkin's Passenger ticket, 31 May 1878 1878

Call #: Aq 2 [16]
Digital ID: a5319001
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